

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Volume XX-07 Number 11

March 19, 2007



Rocketing Into History with Launch from Wallops Island

A group of students from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla., are spending their spring break traveling 800 miles in an attempt to make history. They have planned, designed, fabricated, tested and are now preparing to stage and launch their own suborbital rocket.

Launching from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Icarus is projected to reach an altitude of 40 miles. If all performs nominally, the 16-foot tall rocket will set an altitude record for a university built vehicle.

Icarus is scheduled for launch between 6 and 9 a.m. EDT on Thursday, March 22, with March 23 as a backup date.

"The Embry-Riddle student designed rocket is the most complex student project we have supported to date," said Phil Eberspacher, chief of NASA's Sounding Rockets Program Office. "NASA subjects these student rockets to the same scrutiny as a NASA sounding rocket to ensure the flight can be conducted in a safe manner."

The 15-pound payload on the rocket contains accelerometers, spin sensors and

pressure sensors. In addition, the students will use global positioning satellite (GPS) systems to determine the location of the rocket during flight.

Project Icarus was founded in the fall of 2003 by the Embry-Riddle Future Space Explorers' and Developers' Society. Icarus is the society's flagship vehicle. The purpose of the mission is to combine classroom knowledge with hands-on experience in rocketry and engineering.

"The Embry-Riddle students have shown a lot of professionalism in the development of their student rocket. That professionalism, mixed with 80% rocket science and a little bit of luck, should lead to a safe and successful flight," Eberspacher said.

The Embry-Riddle project is one of several university student design activities being supported by the NASA Wallops Flight Facility. These projects develop critical skills and capabilities needed to support science research and the Vision for Space Exploration.



ER Photo

The Icarus payload was vibrated in the X, Y, and Z axis to determine if it could withstand the vibrations of launch.

Wallops Shorts.....

"The project is 100% satisfied with both the 36.237 and 36.238 missions (launched August 21 and 25, 2006 from Sulf site, White Sands Missile Range, N.M.)

Both missions met all objectives and provided the required dynamics. In addition, the NSROC team was open through the entire process and clearly articulated any potential issues and risk.

They also responded well to last minute changes."

William (Bill) Audenaert
Missile Defense Agency

"I am happy to confirm that the ESPRIT rocket launch (41.056 UO) from Andoya Rocket Range was a comprehensive success.

We are most grateful to NSROC personnel for their mentoring and oversight over the 3-year course of the project.

I would like to especially cite the excellent work of Brian Creighton. The NSROC team went to extraordinary lengths to guide and inspire the students to do the best work they possibly could.

We are very grateful to Bernita Justis, Charles Lankford and Bruce Scott, along

with many others who worked closely with us.

110 students were involved in the project. ESPRIT will be remembered not only for the success of the operations and the interesting data set, but also for the collaboration between our American and Norwegian student teams.

I would like to express a large measure of gratitude to the NASA and NSROC personnel that made the ESPRIT rocket such an extraordinary success."

Timothy Wheeler
Penn State University

Injuries/Incidents Information by Robert Nock

Over the past year, there have been 17 cut and/or laceration injuries reported at the NASA Wallops Executive Safety and Health Council meetings. These consist of injuries to the hand, leg, head, nose, eyelid, lip/mouth, forearm and finger. Hand and finger injuries lead the list of cuts and/or lacerations.

Fortunately, most of these injuries resulted in minor first aid care only. Often the employees were able to return to work the same day. Two of the injuries did result in time away from work. One employee was out of work for 27 days and another for 23 days.

The injury incidents occurred during the use of a variety of tools and tasks. For example, incorrect use of portable tools or equipment, defective equipment, improper body position, improper hands or finger placement, handling materials

without gloves, using the wrong tools, or, not being fully aware of the task requirements were the major factors contributing to the injury incidents.

Employees are encouraged to evaluate assigned tasks and know the hazards associated with them prior to beginning any project. Employees should have a clear understanding on how to guard against any hazard pertaining to the task. This should include the use of proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), tools or equipment in performance of their task.

No activity is so important that it cannot be performed in a safe manner.

If you have questions regarding safe work practices, get in touch with your supervisor or contact Robert Nock, NASA Safety Office, at x2559.

Overview and Focus on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems

Wednesday, April 4
7:30 p.m.
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Wachapreague, Va.

With:
Dr. William Reay, Research Associate Professor of Marine Science and Director, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary

Under the direction of Dr. Reay, the Virginia Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve has taken a leading role in the use of integrated observing systems for tracking water quality trends in coastal waters.

Wallops employees are invited to this free seminar devoted to our natural resources and ecological issues. Seating capacity is 65 people and space is available on a first come-first serve basis. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions, need directions or want more information, call (757) 787-5816.

Do not use Corridors and Stairs for Storage



In accordance with the Fire Protection at Goddard Space Flight Center, GPR 8715.5- Corridors and

stairs shall not be used for storage; this includes trash and excess equipment.

Corridors and stairs shall be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments that would impede full and instant use in the case of fire or other emergency.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 11
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Building F-3 (Rocket Club)



To schedule an appointment go to:
www.givelife.org

The code for donors is: Wallops

For further information call the Health Unit at x1266.

NASA Safety Training Course

Flight Safety Systems

May 8 – 10

Building E-2 Training Room

The course is offered at no cost to NASA and contractor employees.

The class is limited to 20 people. Information on the course is available at: <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/%7Ecode803/pages/training.html>

Registration is due by April 5 and can be done at the following site:

<https://saturn.nasa.gov/elms/learner/login.do>

Contact Olive Finney at olive.v.finney@nasa.gov or call x2463 for further information.

Job Openings

NASA Wallops Flight Facility has the following current job vacancy announcements:

Contract Specialist, GS-1102-09/12

Management Operations Directorate
Procurement Operations Division, Code 210
Job Announcement Number: GS07B0130
Closing Date: March 29, 2007

Contract Specialist, GS-1102-13

Management Operations Directorate
Procurement Operations Division, Code 210
Job Announcement Number: GS07B0131
Closing Date: March 29, 2007

The NASA jobs website is at <http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/>

Once on the site, click on search jobs and then click on NASA civil servant job search. You'll then be taken to the USAJOBS page for NASA.

On that page, under keyword search, type in the respective job announcement number and click search jobs.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor
Asst. Editor

Betty Flowers
Rebecca Hudson